

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated September 22, 2005, and has made the following remarks. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 3 has been amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, in view of the amendments and the following remarks, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,497,485 to Itoh (hereinafter "Itoh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,191,893 to Bradley (hereinafter "Bradley") and Arnold et al. (SID 01 DIGEST). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Itoh, Bradley and Arnold et al., either alone or in combination, do not teach the claimed invention. Specifically, Itoh discloses a reflective illuminating optical system wherein polarized light beams enter a first optical color-light-separating system having a red-light-reflecting dichroic mirror 511 (first dichroic mirror) for separating the red light, and a green and blue-light-reflecting dichroic reflecting mirror 512 (second dichroic mirror) for separating the green and blue light from the red light. The first dichroic mirror and the second dichroic mirror are arranged in the shape of an X (column 20, lines 53 to 61 of Itoh). The green and blue light then enter a green-light-reflecting dichroic mirror 513 (third dichroic mirror), wherein the green light is reflected and the blue light is transmitted (column 20, line 65 to column 21, line 3 of Itoh).

In contrast, independent claims 1 and 3 recite a first dichroic mirror for receiving a light and transmitting B (Blue) light while reflecting G (Green) and R (Red) lights and a second dichroic mirror for receiving the light, whose optical path is separated, and transmitting the R light and reflecting the G light. It is respectfully submitted that Itoh does not teach or suggest the claimed invention because of Itoh's use of three dichroic mirrors (two mirrors for separating red light from green and blue light and one mirror for separating green light from blue light). Accordingly, without the assistance of the applicant's specification, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Itoh to derive the present invention by eliminating the use of one of the three mirrors.

Furthermore, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to derive the present invention in view of Itoh because of Itoh's first dichroic mirror 511 and second dichroic

mirror 512 being arranged in an X shape. As stated above, such a structure is utilized for separating the red light (a first light) from the green and blue light. However, the red light is separated by being reflected off of the first dichroic mirror 511. In contrast, the present invention transmits blue light (a first light) through the first dichroic mirror.

Accordingly, the functions of the dichroic mirrors, the number of mirrors, and the arrangement of the mirrors render the illuminating optical systems of Itoh and the present invention very different from each other. Thus, the present invention is not obvious in view of Itoh. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 3 and the claims respectively dependent therefrom are allowable over Itoh.

With respect to Bradley and Arnold et al., it is respectfully submitted that neither Bradley nor Arnold et al. cure the deficiencies of Itoh with respect to Itoh using a third dichroic mirror and reflecting a first light off of the first dichroic mirror rather than transmitting the first light through the first dichroic mirror. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 and the claims respectively dependent therefrom are allowable over Itoh, Bradley and Arnold et al. either alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

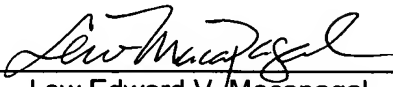
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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